

**ABSTRACT**

[00208] A method and apparatus for transmural ablation using an instrument containing two electrodes or cryogenic probes. A clamping force is exerted on the two electrodes or probes such that the tissue of the hollow organ is clamped therebetween. Bipolar RF energy is then applied between the two electrodes, or the probes are cryogenically cooled, thus ablating the tissue therebetween. The method provides for ablating cardiac tissue of a patient utilizing a sub-xypoid approach and identifying cardiac tissue prior to ablation.

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